

SECRET

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USNMR SHAPE

C-619/290132Z

UNITED STATES MESSAGE TOR/290615Z

SECRET

OFFICIAL INCOMING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

FROM: CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY

TO : USNMR SHAPE PARIS FRANCE

**INFO: AMEMB BONN GERMANY, CINCUSAFE WIESBADEN GERMANY, USCCB/CG
USAB BERLIN GERMANY.**

NH : SX 4637

27 July 1962

REFS: A. AMEMB BONN 271 To State Department 26 June 1962 (LN 9346).

B. ALO 639, 26 July 1962.

**FROM GENERAL FREEMAN FOR GENERAL NORSTAD, AMBASSADOR DOWLING,
GENERAL LONDON AND GENERAL WATSON.**

1. (SECRET) I propose that I reply to General Yakubovskiy as follows: "I am in receipt of your letter of 25 July 1962. In my view, the matters included therein should more properly be discussed between the American and Soviet Commandants of Berlin. This action would appear to be in the spirit of Marshal Koniev's desire, as expressed to General Clarke, that commandant relationships be normalized. I am sure General Watson is prepared to discuss with General Solovyev the subject of your protest as well as any others which might be appropriate. Respectfully"

2. (SECRET) This reply is based on the following rationale:

a. For me to respond to the substance of a protest which should be handled within the political chain of responsibility of the commandants would support the contention that the presence of our forces in Berlin is for purely military purposes and unrelated to the postwar agreements between our governments.

b. In view of the Soviets' propensity for presenting us with the alternative of equally unacceptable courses of action, I

LN 9471

(29 July 1962)

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believe that there may be additional disadvantages should I respond to the substance of the protest. Conceivably their aim could be to degrade either the commandants or the CINCS depending upon my reply. My rebutting of the protest would infer either that I have authority to discuss these matters or that the matter is purely a military one. Refusal to comment or rejection of the protest, on the basis of lack of authority on my part, could conceivably be used by the Soviets as a basis for terminating the CINCS relationships or for referring such problems to General Norstad in the hope of developing contacts between NATO and Warsaw Pact.

c. In summary, I believe the Commandant's position and his political role must be upheld and that any inference as to my authority to discuss or to deal with this protest should be avoided at this time. Therefore, I believe that the letter should neither be returned to CINC GSFG nor referred to Watson. I see nothing to be gained by denying or affirming my authority to discuss such matters, or by rebutting the protest at this time.

d. My proposed reply might also give impetus to normalization of commandants relations.

3. (C) I recommend that the proposed reply be approved and that it be coordinated with the British in order that my reply and General Cassel's may be in consonance with each other. SCP-4.

ACTION: OSACEUR

INFO : COF3

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